REIGN OF THE SUPERMEN!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
687
JUN 93
US $1.50
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UK 60p
SUPERMAN
IN ACTION COMICS
1993
12
BONUS! LAST SON OF KRYPTON™ POSTER!
THE FUNERAL IS OVER!
BORN AGAIN!
STERN GUICE RODIER

REIGN OF THE SUPERMEN!

687 JUN 93
US $1.95
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SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS

BONUS! LAST SON OF KRYPTON™ POSTER!

1993
12

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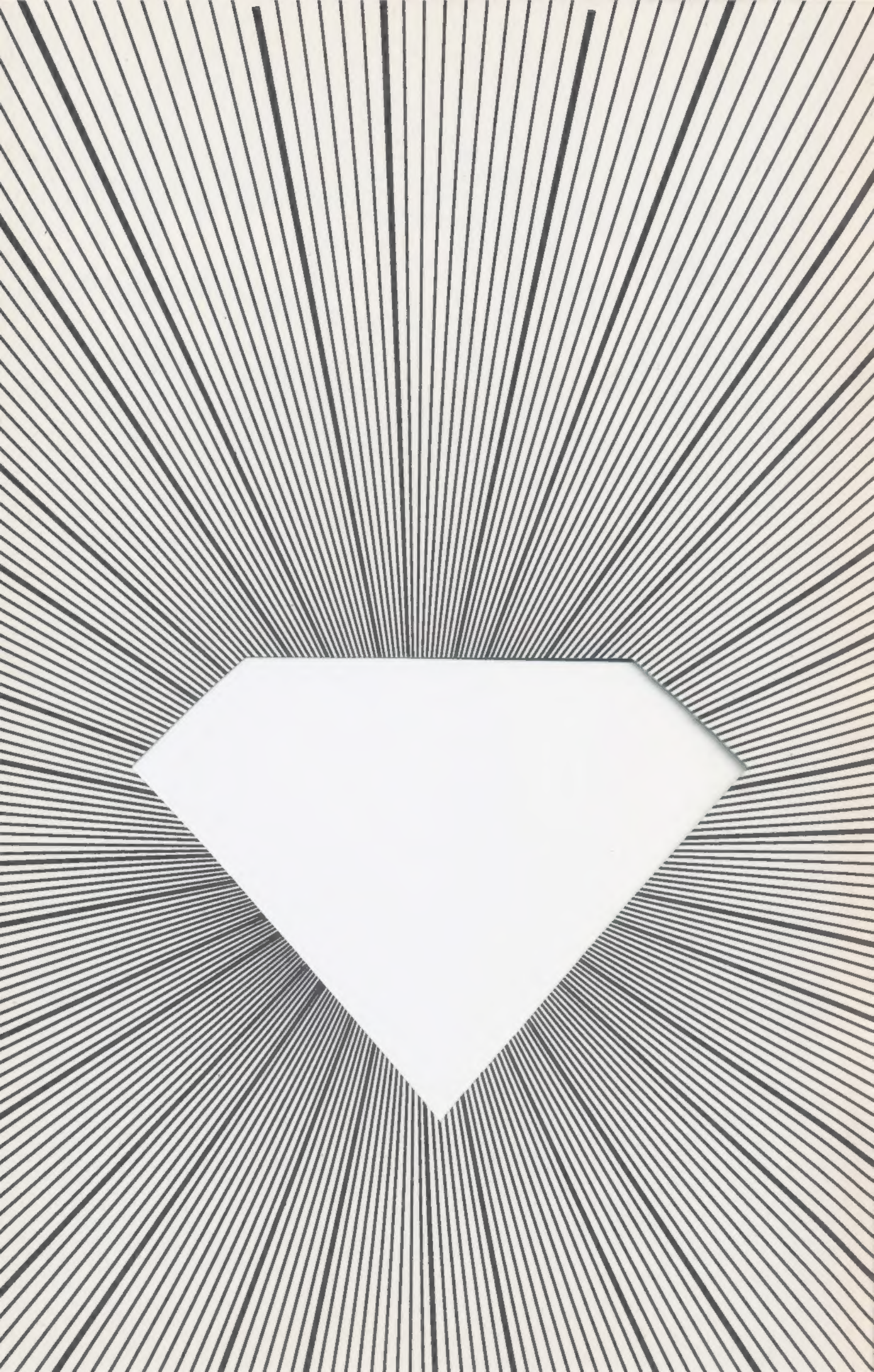
THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON IS BACK!

BY STERN, GUICE AND RODIER



CONSUME MASS QUANTITIES!

THIS SUMMER

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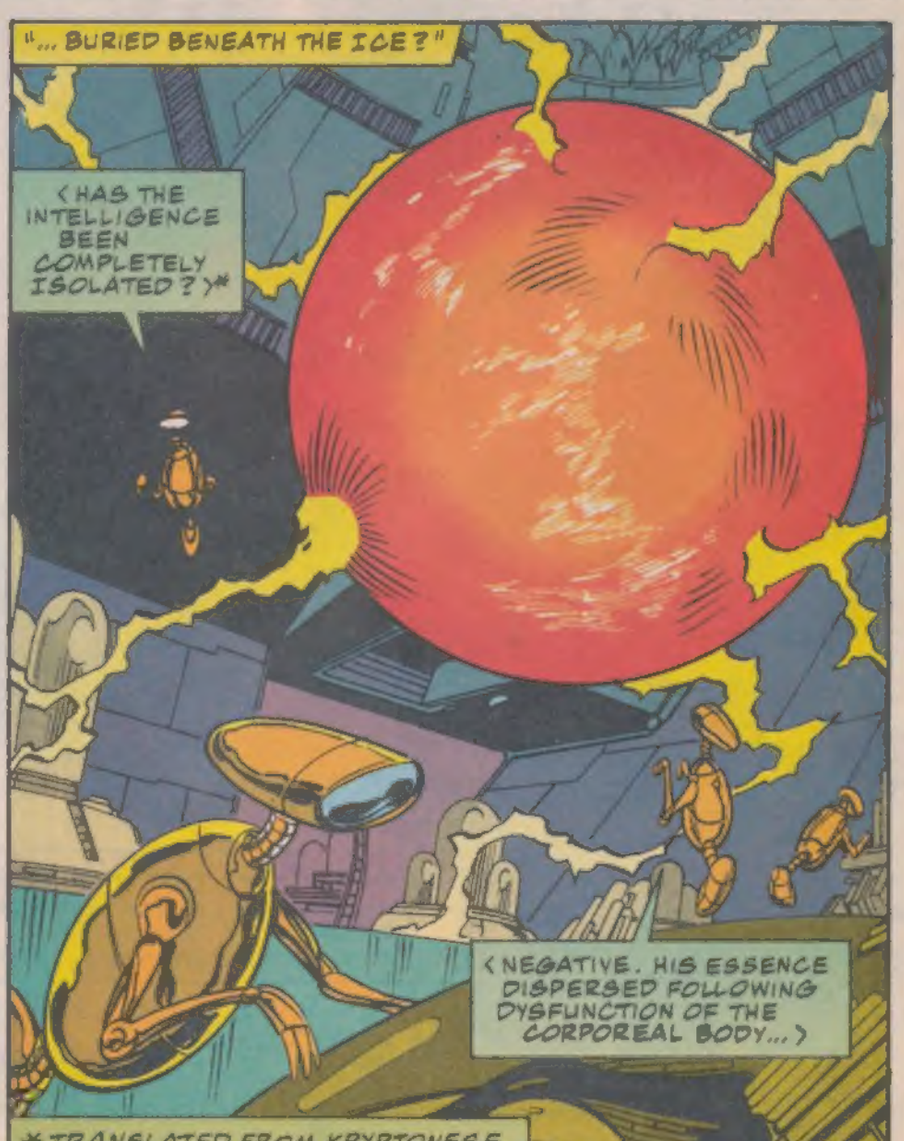
... I'VE SPENT FIVE OF THE PAST TEN YEARS DOWN HERE, AND I'VE NEVER SEEN THE AURORA FLARE UP LIKE THIS!
AND THAT LIGHTNING--!
FEELS LIKE THE AIR AROUND US IS CARRYING A CHARGE. I DON'T LIKE THIS, STEVE...

... WE'D BETTER GET INSIDE.
HEY, COULD THIS BE A SIDE EFFECT OF THAT GROWING HOLE IN THE OZONE LAYER?
POSSIBLY... MORE CHARGED PARTICLES MIGHT BE STREAMING IN. I DON'T KNOW, THOUGH...
U.S. 591-G
MIAMI BEACH
1600 KM

... IT LOOKS LIKE THAT LIGHTNING STORM IS CENTERED JUST BEYOND THE ELLSWORTH MOUNTAINS.

A LOT OF WEIRD ELECTROMAGNETIC PHENOMENA HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THAT AREA RECENTLY. I'VE HEARD RUMORS...
"... AH, IT'S PROBABLY A LOAD OF NONSENSE! STILL, WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT BE OUT THERE...


"... BURIED BENEATH THE ICE?"
<HAS THE INTELLIGENCE BEEN COMPLETELY ISOLATED?>*
<NEGATIVE. HIS ESSENCE DISPERSED FOLLOWING DYSFUNCTION OF THE CORPOREAL BODY...>
*TRANSLATED FROM KRYPTONESE.

"〈... AND RETRIEVAL HAS BEEN LIMITED TO 98.073 PERCENT. HOWEVER, DESPITE THE LOSS, THERE IS STILL A 79.237 PERCENT CHANCE FOR RECONSTRUCTION.〉"
I... I...
...I AM.
BUT... WHERE AM I?
I REMEMBER... A BATTLE...
〈HIGH ENERGY FLUCTUATION!〉
...GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
〈HE LIVES! OUR PROGRAMMING HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.〉
I... I KNOW THIS PLACE! THIS IS... MY FORTRESS!
BUT HOW DID I GET HERE?
〈INTERESTING. THE ENERGY FORM'S VIBRATIONS ARE PRODUCING SOUNDS.〉
〈HE IS DISORIENTED... HE ATTEMPTS TO VOCALIZE IN ENGLISH. WE MUST RESPOND IN KIND.〉
DO NOT FEAR. THERE IS NO-- ÷SQWARK÷
WHAT IS GOING ON?!

YOU WERE ;SNIK;
RENDERED DISCORPORATE... ;ZAKKT;
I'M... IMMATERIAL... JUST ENERGY.
YES. A MOBILE FIELD EFFECT HAS BEEN CREATED TO COLLECT AND CONTAIN YOUR ESSENCE.
DISCORPORATE. HOW--?
YOU STILL DON'T RECALL?
;BREED; ;ZIKT;
ONE MOMENT, PLEASE, SIR... WE MUST DEAL WITH THE FEEDBACK YOU CAUSED IN OUR FELLOW UNIT.
THE MONITOR! THE PROFESSOR-- HAMILTON?-- ADJUSTED IT TO RECEIVE AND RECORD SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS.
IF I CAN ACTIVATE IT...
ZIZZK
...I CAN SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON.
JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA WAS RUTHLESSLY ATTACKED BY A CREATURE THAT IS BEING CALLED DOOMSDAY...
FOLLOWING A CROSS-COUNTRY CHASE, SUPERMAN HAS FACED OFF AGAINST DOOMSDAY IN THE VERY HEART OF METROPOLIS...
...ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF THE MONSTER AS HE APPEARED...
SUPERMAN HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED...

You've got the whole world in your hands!

- Control one of 8 planets or randomly generate your very own

- Create forests, swamps, jungles, seas, deserts, rainforests

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- Give intelligence to the species of your choice.. then watch what happens!
- Experiment with global warming and nuclear war
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- Powerful 8 meg Super NES memory chip
- Long life battery saves planet scenarios
- Adapted from the hit PC game

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The Living Planet

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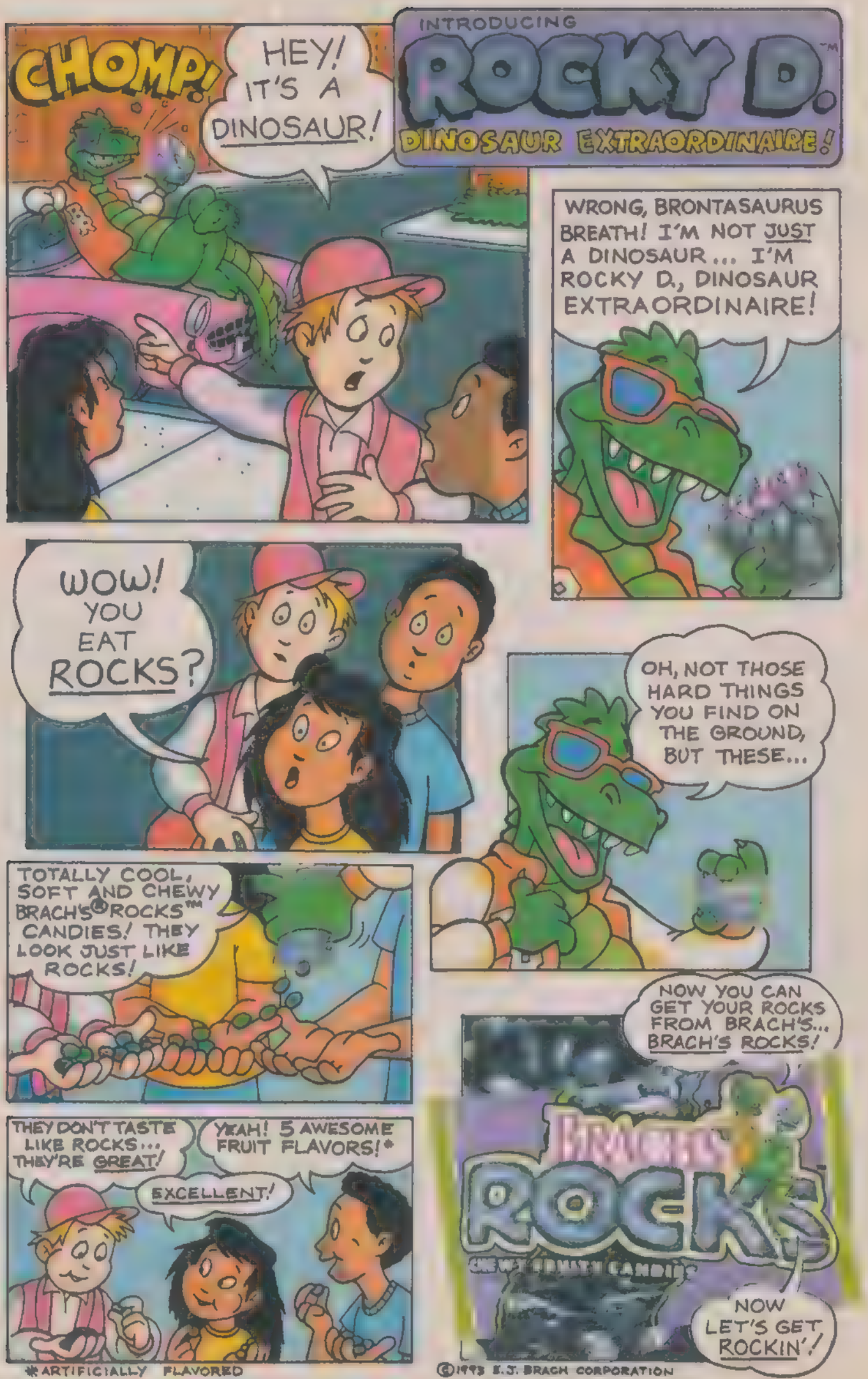

CHOMP!
HEY! IT'S A DINOSAUR!
INTRODUCING
ROCKY D.™
DINOSAUR EXTRAORDINAIRE!
WRONG, BRONTASAURUS BREATH! I'M NOT JUST A DINOSAUR... I'M ROCKY D., DINOSAUR EXTRAORDINAIRE!
WOW! YOU EAT ROCKS?
OH, NOT THOSE HARD THINGS YOU FIND ON THE GROUND, BUT THESE...
TOTALLY COOL, SOFT AND CHEWY BRACH'S® ROCKS™ CANDIES! THEY LOOK JUST LIKE ROCKS!
NOW YOU CAN GET YOUR ROCKS FROM BRACH'S... BRACH'S ROCKS!
THEY DON'T TASTE LIKE ROCKS... THEY'RE GREAT!
YEAH! 5 AWESOME FRUIT FLAVORS!*
EXCELLENT!
NOW LET'S GET ROCKIN'!
*ARTIFICIALLY FLAVORED
©1993 E.J. BRACH CORPORATION

... SUPERMAN WAS DECLARED DEAD AT APPROXIMATELY 6:23 PM.
...THE SOLEMN DRUM BEAT AS THE WORLD'S GREAT HEROES MARCH ALONG IN TRIBUTE, FOLLOWING THEIR GALLANT LEADER ONE LAST TIME
DEAD?
THE WORLD WILL LONG REMEMBER THIS GREAT MAN, WHO SACRIFICED HIS OWN LIFE TO END THE THREAT OF DOOMSDAY... GOD BLESS HIM.
DEAD
MOURNERS CONTINUE TO VISIT HIS TOMB IN METROPOLIS'S CENTENNIAL PARK, LEAVING TRIBUTES TO THIS LAST SON OF KRYPTON WHO GREW UP TO BECOME THE MOST AMERICAN OF HEROES..
NO! IT CAN'T END THIS WAY!
THE BODY!
THE REAL POWER MUST STILL BE IN THE BODY!
SIR? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

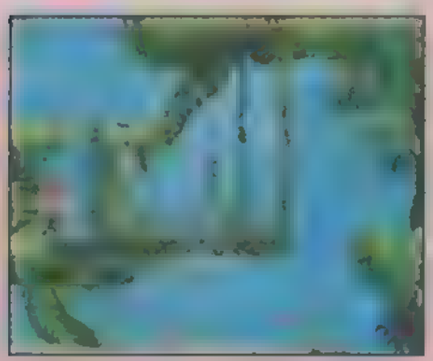
METROPOLIS
4:27 AM.
SLOW NIGHT... BEEN BARELY FIFTY PEOPLE HERE SINCE MIDNIGHT.
I HOPE THEY'RE NOT STARTING TO FORGET HIM ALREADY.
ONE-BAKER-63... SEE A MAN AT BESSELO AND PARK ENTRANCE SOUTH... STOLEN CAB REPORTED.
umph.
hurm
huhnh.
...HASHEM IS HIS HERITAGE, AND MAY HE REPOSE IN PEACE ON HIS RESTING PLACE. Amen.
THIS IS ONE-BAKER-63. ON MY WAY!
SO GREAT A DISTANCE BUT IT SEEMED TO TAKE ONLY INSTANTS
uuhm. PRETTY FLOWERS.
PRETTY-PRETTY.
NEVER MISS ONE
ODD. SHE TAKES NO NOTICE OF ME
IS SHE THAT LOST WITHIN HER OWN MIND?
OR IS IT SIMPLY THAT NO HUMAN BEING CAN PERCEIVE ME IN THIS FORM?
I CAN TEST THAT LATER--

--IF I AM UNSUCCESSFUL IN REGAINING PHYSICAL SUBSTANCE.
THE BODY IS DEFINITELY IN THERE. I CAN FEEL THE RAW POWER STIRRING WITHIN.
OVER THIRTY YEARS OF BIO-CONVERTED SOLAR ENERGY IS STORED IN THIS BODY. IF I CAN'T RECLAIM IT...
... I'LL FOREVER REMAIN AN IMMATERIAL WRAITH.
GYAAAH!
THE POWER.
...THE POWERRR!
OH!
I-I'M SORRY!
YOU CAN HAVE THE FLOWER BACK!
Y-YOU CAN HAVE SOME O' MY STUFF, TOO

"...YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL!"
THE CAPE... I...
...I CAN TOUCH IT... HOLD IT!
I'M ALIVE AGAIN... ALIVE!
BUT... I FEEL SO STRANGE... SO LIGHT-HEADED.
THE AIR... MUSTY IN HERE. GOT TO GET OUT.
WHAT? THERE'S ELECTRICAL CIRCUITRY... BURIED IN THIS WALL. I CAN SOMEHOW SENSE IT.
THERE ARE CONTROL SYSTEMS HERE... ALARMS...
...AND A PASSAGEWAY?! WHO WOULD PUT SUCH THINGS IN A TOMB?
UNLESS--? NO, HOW COULD ANYONE ANTICIPATE MY RETURN?
WELL, I CAN HARDLY COMPLAIN ABOUT--!
ARHH! THE... LIGHT! BLINDING...
...BUT WHY?! I HAVE STARED INTO THE SUN!
SOMETHING HAS CHANGED WITHIN ME. I'M NOT SAFE HERE...
...I MUST RETURN TO THE FORTRESS.
"I CAN'T LET ANYBODY SEE ME..."

The First CD-ROM Game in a Cartridge!

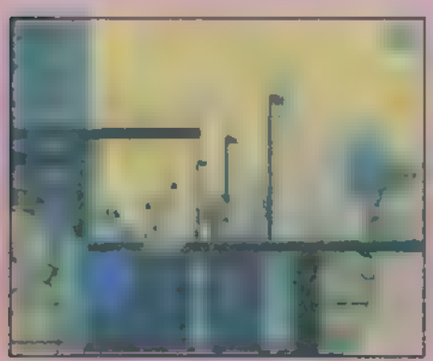
FLASHBACK
THE QUEST FOR IDENTITY™



Planet Titan: *It's a jungle out there. Filled with mutants, antimatter fields and other weird stuff.*

Death Tower: *In a futuristic gladiator battle, it's a fight to the finish against replicants.*

Paradise Club: *You sniff out the aliens' bizarro plans but now they're on to you dude.*



Earth: *Oops! Your identity is uncovered. Now robot cops want to pulverize you.*

Planet Morphs: *Surprise! You show up at the aliens' HQ. They don't look happy.*

Available
for Sega™ Genesis™

Flashback – the first game ever to pump awesome high-octane CD ROM performance from a cartridge. The action screams along at 24 frames-per-second. Just like movie animation. And after each level, the game moves along with animated sequences that are straight out of Hollywood. Excellent!

The Plot? You play the part of Conrad Hart, a GBI agent in training. You stumble on a bizarre alien plot to conquer the earth. Now you've got to outwit and combat droves of replicants, deadly aliens, traps and other stuff too weird for words. No problem for a pro like you...NOT!

Still not convinced? Then check it out at your local game habitat. Flashback – it's like putting your Genesis into warp drive.

Flashback – The Quest for Identity ™ 1993 Delphine Software and U.S. Gold Inc. All rights reserved. Sega and Genesis are trademarks of Sega Enterprises Ltd.

and

This Ain't No Game.

SUPER

MARIO BROS.

STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 28 AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE

... NOT 'FORE I'M GOOD AN' READY. I FEEL FUNNY DOIN' THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT SOMEBODY'S GOTTA!
HULLO, SUPERMAN? THIS'S YER OL' PAL BIBBO...
... I HOPE GOD DON'T MIND IF WE TALK AWHILES.
WE ALL MISS YA, SUPERMAN. WE MISS YA TERRIBLE BAD.
I BEEN THINKIN' 'BOUT YOU A LOT, PAL.
WE TRIED SO HARD TO BRING YA BACK--
¡KLIK! RADIO-9 NEWS TIME 4:43. MORE AFTER THIS...
--PROFESSOR HAM AN' ME, AN' ALL THEM PARAMEDICALS. WE TRIED AN' WE TRIED. I GUESS GOD NEEDED YA MORE. NOT THAT I BEGRUDGE HIM...
... BUT THIS PICTURE... IT KEEPS HAUNTIN' ME.
PHOTO BY JAMES OLSEN
LOIS LANE Staff Reporter
IT JUST AIN'T THE SAME HERE WITHOUT YA.
THESE SHIRTS... YA COULDA MADE A MINT FROM MERCHANDIZIN'--
--BUT YA NEVER KEPT A DIME! YA ALWAYS GAVE YOUR PART TO CHARITY... A REAL SHARE-THE-WEALTH GUY ...JUS' LIKE ME!
... VIOLENT CRIME CONTINUES TO WORSEN IN ALL PARTS OF THE CITY. IN RELATED NEWS, DOCTORS REPORT A SHARP INCREASE IN CASES OF CLINICAL DEPRESSION IN THE WAKE OF SUPERMAN'S DEATH.
Y'HEAR THAT, SUPERMAN? THINGS'RE FALLIN' APART DOWN HERE. SUPERGIRL AN' GANGBUSTER'VE BEEN WORKIN' REAL HARD, BUT SOMEHOW IT JUST AIN'T ENOUGH.

NOW, WHAT I GOT IN MIND MIGHT STRIKE SOME FOLKS AS D.S.-RESPECTFUL--
--BUT I SURE HOPE YOU DON'T THINK SO, SUPERMAN. AIN'T NOBODY IN THIS WORLD I RESPECTS MORE'N YOU... YOU WERE MY FAV'RIT!
I KNOW I'M NOT MAN ENUFF TO FILL YER BOOTS..
...BUT I'M STILL GONNA GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!
THE WAY I SEES IT, WE ALL GOTTA PULL TOGETHER-- DO EVERYTHIN' WE CAN TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT.
I KNOW THAT'S THE WAY YOU D'A WANTED IT!
WELL, I WON'T LET YA DOWN, PAL. I'M GONNA HELP EVERYBODY I CAN... AN' I'M GONNA DO IT ALL IN YER MEMORY! IF IT'S A SUPERMAN THAT METROPOLIS NEEDS...

"...IT'S A SUPERMAN THEY'LL GET"
BLESS KRYPTON AND THE HOUSE OF EL!
THEIR LEGACY ...THE TECHNOLOGY OF THIS FORTRESS... HAS GIVEN ME NEW LIFE!
THIS GLORIOUS REGENERATION MATRIX HAS INSURED THAT THE HEART OF KRYPTON'S LAST SON KEEPS BEATING. IT CHANNELS LIFE-GIVING ENERGIES TO ME--
--NOW THAT I CAN NO LONGER ABSORB THEM DIRECTLY FROM THE SUN AND STARS. NOW THAT I AM ...LIMITED.
LIMITED ONCE I COULD SEE TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, IF I SO DESIRED. NOW...
...THE DIMMEST LIGHT BLINDS ME. IF NOT FOR THIS VISOR, I'D BE HELPLESS.
I MUST NOT GIVE IN TO DESPAIR. I MAY HAVE LOST THE GIFT OF SUPERNORMAL SIGHT, BUT I AM ALIVE.
YES... I AM ALIVE!
SHRAK
MY SENSES, MY BODY MAY HAVE CHANGED... BUT I AM STILL STRONG! I STILL POSSESS POWERS AND ABILITIES FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN...
...I CAN STILL FLY-- FREE OF GRAVITY'S HOLD!
I... I...
...MUST BE MORE CAREFUL WITH THOSE ENERGY BLASTS
SIR? IS SOMETHING AMISS?

NO..OF COURSE NOT.
SEE THAT THIS WALL IS REPAIRED ... AND REIN-FORCED!
YES SR
YOU THERE... UNIT 3! I ORDERED THE MONITOR RECON-FIGURED TO PRODUCE LESS GLARE, NOT MORE!
APOLOGIES SR BUT YOU ALSO ORDERED THE DISPLAY OF ALL METROPOLIS NEWS TRANSMISSIONS
THE NEW MONITOR WILL BE READY IN FIVE-POINT-TWO HOURS THIS IS AN INTERIM MEASURE

..ROBBERY AT THE 12TH STREET BRANCH OF FIRST METRO SECURITY BANK. THE DARING BANDITS GOT AWAY WITH AN ESTI-MATED $60,000. IT WAS THE CITY'S FIFTH SUCH HOLDUP IN AS MANY DAYS
RELEASE TIME 12 32 PM
CAMERA 003

... CITING THE GROWING, GEN-ERAL MALAISE IN URBAN CEN-TERS WORLDWIDE, IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING SUPERMAN'S DEATH, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS FEAR A DRAMATIC RISE IN THE INCI-DENCE OF SUICIDES AND ATTEMPTED...

... LOSS OF THIRTY-SEVEN LIVES
THE INTENSE HEAT OF THE BLAZE KEPT FIREFIGHTERS AT BAY. SAID ONE WEARY SMOKE-EATER, "WE SURE COULD HAVE USED .."

A SURPRISING NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE JOINED A CULT WHICH GATHERS DAILY AT SUPERMAN'S TOMB, AWAITING HIS RESURRECTION.
HE WILL RISE!
MEMBERS OF THE CULT, WHICH ORIGINATED IN CALIFORNIA, WORSHIP THE LATE HERO AS A MESSIAH AND MAINTAIN THAT HE WILL RISE FROM THE GRAVE TO CARRY ON THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE...
"SUPERMAN! SUPERMAN!! SUPERMAN!!!"
YES.. I HEAR YOU .

LAST

OF

TON!

THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON!™

Guile: Explain yourself!

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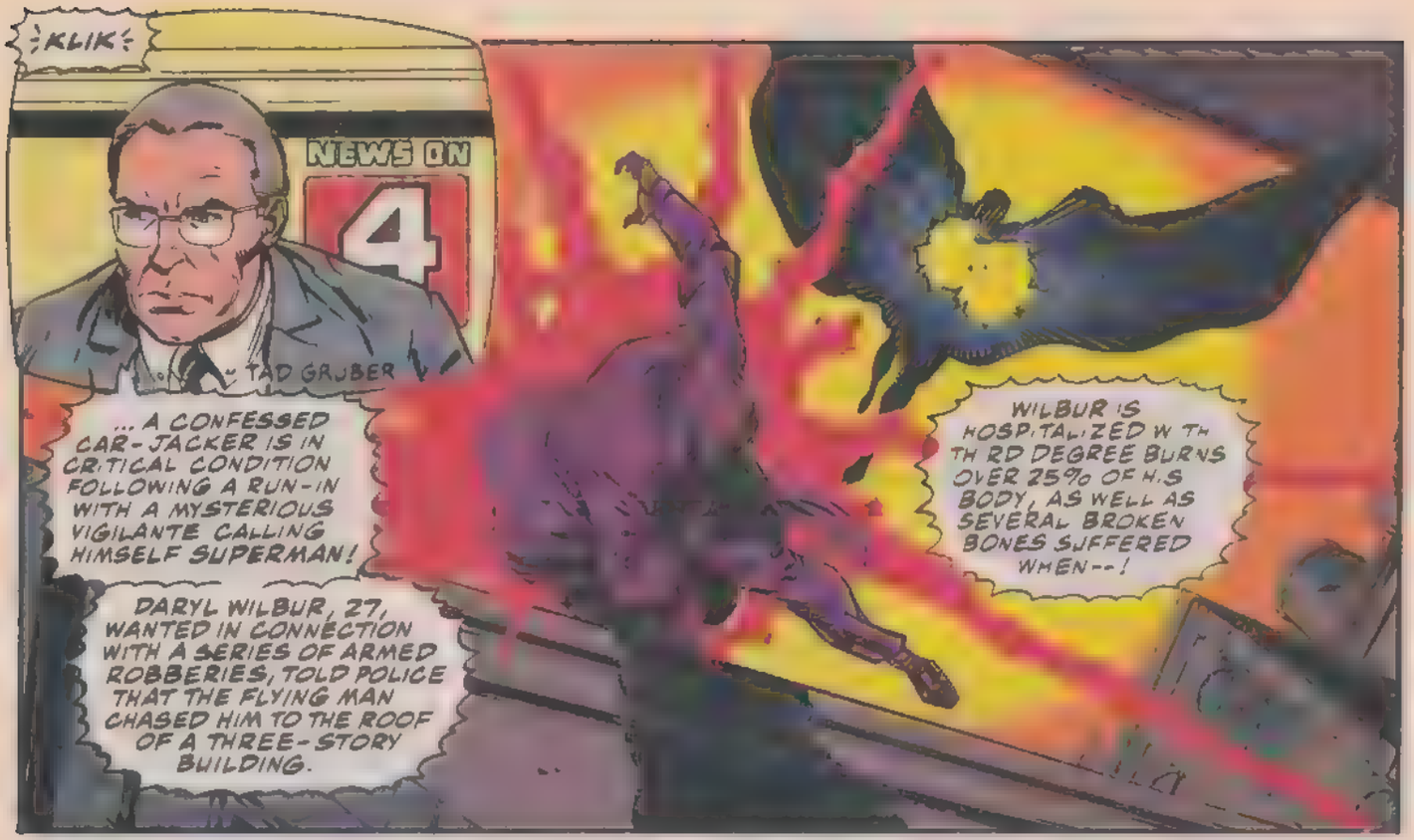
THE
SON
KRYP

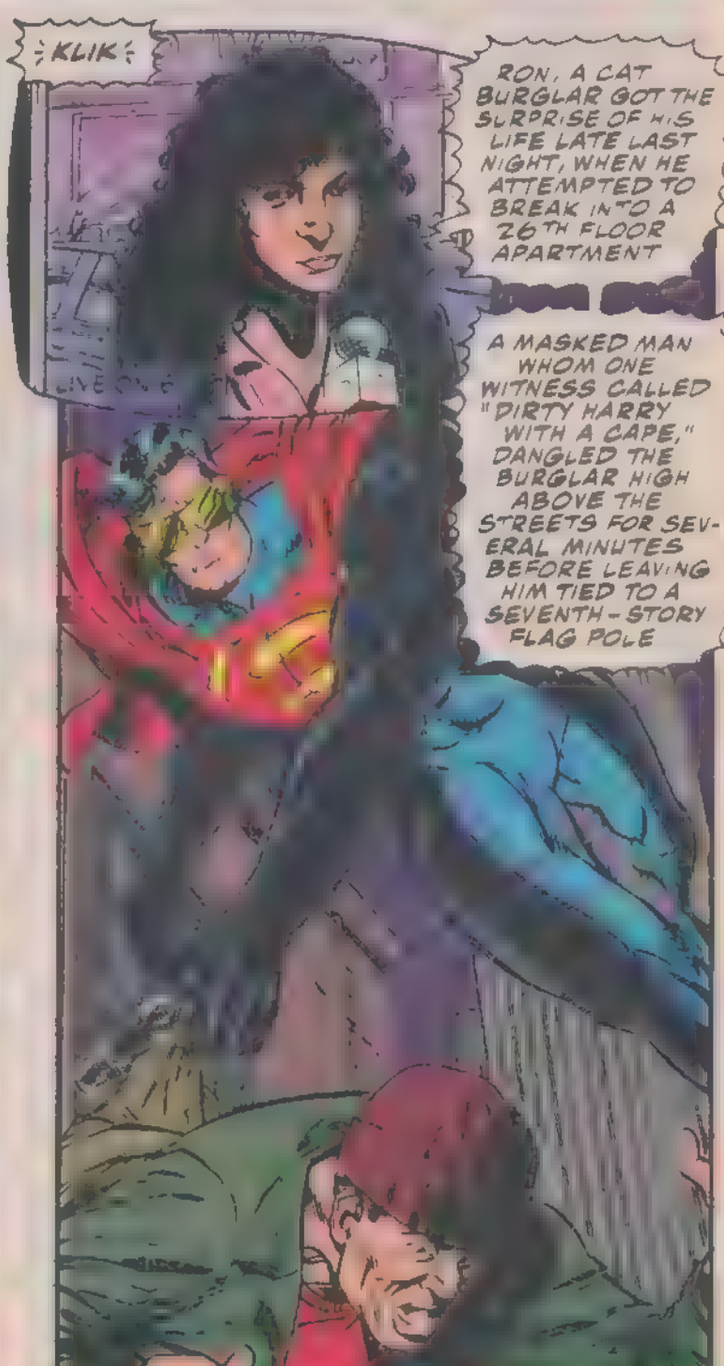
UNIT 4... UNIT 9!
SR?
SR?
I WANT THE CAPE AND SHIELD!
YES, SIR, THEY WERE PREPARED, AS PER YOUR ORDERS OF THIS MORNING
SIR, YOU RETURNED TO US JUST 16-POINT-SEVEN HOURS AGO. WOULDN'T IT BE WISE FOR YOU TO RECUPERATE MORE FROM YOUR ORDEAL BEFORE--?
NO! NO, I CANNOT REST WHILE THE WORLD IS IN SUCH A DESPERATE STATE.
THE PEOPLE CRY OUT FOR ME... FOR SUPERMAN!
I MUST BE THEIR CHAMPION ONCE MORE!
I AM NEEDED IN METROPOLIS!
WHAT'RE YOU--? NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME! HELP!!

HELLLP!!
SHUT UP!
POLICE--!
I SAID-- SHUT UP!!
AIN'T NOBODY GONNA HELP YOU!
YOU AN ME WE GONNA PARTY
NO--NO!! HELLLLP!!!
KTHOOM!
GET AWAY FROM THAT WOMAN!!
WHAT IN THE HELL--?!
HELL? I HAVE SEEN HELL, FOOL.
PUT DOWN THAT GUN, OR I WILL SEND YOU THERE!
BDAM BDAM
SONUVA--!

KER-RAK
THAT WAS THE WRONG DECISION.
W-WHO ARE YOU?!
I M SUPERMAN.
Y-YOU CAN T BE SUPERMAN HE S DEAD!
NO
...YOU ARE!
GYUU!
OH . MY... GOD
DO NOT BE AFRAID. HE CAN NO LONGER HARM YOU
.. I HAVE SEEN TO THAT! YOU ARE SAFE NOW
NO... I'M NOT SORRY MY ATTACKER S DEAD--
--HE SURE WON'T THREATEN ANYONE EVER AGA·N.


KLIK
NEWS ON 4
TAD GRUBER
... A CONFESSED CAR-JACKER IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION FOLLOWING A RUN-IN WITH A MYSTERIOUS VIGILANTE CALLING HIMSELF SUPERMAN!
DARYL WILBUR, 27, WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A SERIES OF ARMED ROBBERIES, TOLD POLICE THAT THE FLYING MAN CHASED HIM TO THE ROOF OF A THREE-STORY BUILDING.
WILBUR IS HOSPITALIZED W TH TH RD DEGREE BURNS OVER 25% OF H.S BODY, AS WELL AS SEVERAL BROKEN BONES SUFFERED WHEN--!

KLIK
10
SPECIAL REPORT
METROPOLIS HARBOR. HERE, JUST BEFORE DAWN...
...A BOAT CARRYING THREE MEN AND AN UNSPECIFIED QUANTITY OF HEROIN--
--WAS REPORTEDLY STOPPED BY A MAN WEARING THE CAPE AND INSIGNIA OF THE LATE SUPERMAN! AND A CITY WONDERS... HAS THEIR HERO RETURNED FROM THE BEYOND?


KLIK
LIVE ONE
RON, A CAT BURGLAR GOT THE SURPRISE OF HIS LIFE LATE LAST NIGHT, WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO BREAK INTO A 26TH FLOOR APARTMENT
A MASKED MAN WHOM ONE WITNESS CALLED "DIRTY HARRY WITH A CAPE," DANGLED THE BURGLAR HIGH ABOVE THE STREETS FOR SEVERAL MINUTES BEFORE LEAVING HIM TIED TO A SEVENTH-STORY FLAG POLE

Help Mega Man turn Proto Man into spare parts.

Proto Man's got Dr. Light. But Mega Man is back—ready to put some heavy pedal to the metal to defeat Stone Man, Gyro Man, Star Man, Wave Man, Charge Man and other robotic goons. Use his Mega Buster and Super Arrow to make it to the castle and put Proto Man on the scrap heap forever.

Use your modified Mega Buster before this robot gets the jump on you.

When you hit the gravity chamber it's hard to tell which way is up.

Catch a wave on your hydro cycle and sink this robot for good.

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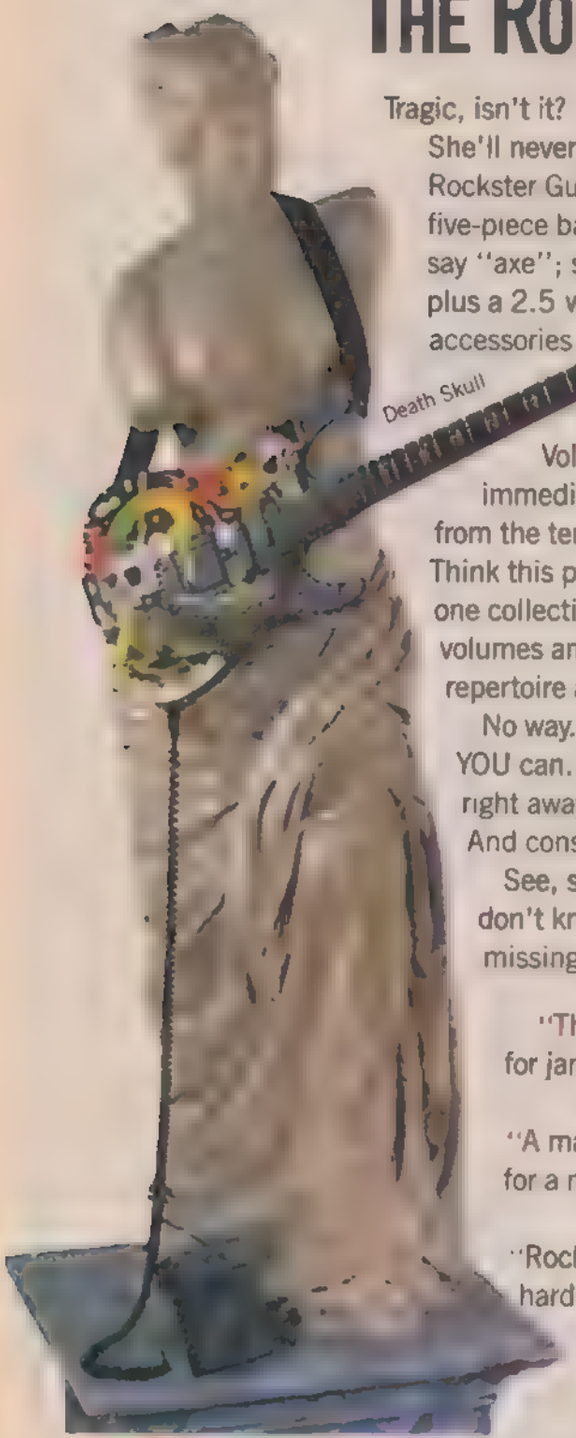
:KLIK:
SUPERMAN'S COFFIN IS EMPTY! BUT THE QUESTIONS REMAIN... HAS HE SOMEHOW MIRACULOUSLY RETURNED FROM THE DEAD? OR ARE THESE SIGHTINGS THE HANDIWORK OF A SUPER-OPPORTUNIST?
SEVERAL RADICAL GROUPS HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROBBING SUPERMAN'S TOMB AND REVIVING HIM--
--WHILE SUPERMAN-WORSHIPING CULTISTS WARN THAT JUDGMENT DAY IS AT HAND. ONLY ONE THING IS CERTAIN...
...SUPERMAN'S BODY IS MISSING!
MISSING! AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY-- DO WE, HAPPERSEN?!
WELL, SIR, MY PEOPLE--!
YOUR PEOPLE! "DON'T WORRY, MR. LUTHOR, THE NEWS CAMERAS WILL RECORD ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS AT THE TOMB!" BAH! ALL WE HAVE ARE 24 HOURS OF BLANK TAPE!!
I ASSURE YOU, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE--!
--BUT THE LADY INSISTS ON SEEING YOU!
OUT OF MY WAY!
HOW LONG, HAPPERSEN? HOW LONG?!
AFTER WE RECOVERED H.S BODY FROM THE CADMUS PROJECT, YOU ASSURED ME THAT SECURITY WAS IMPROVED! AND NOW THIS!
I SWEAR, SUPERMAN'S AS MUCH TROUBLE TO ME DEAD AS ALIVE!
LEX, WE HAVE TO TALK!
BLOODY HELL, NOW WHAT?! I GAVE ORDERS NOT TO BE DISTURBED!
:UFF: SORRY, MR. L. WE TRIED :OW: TO TELL HER--
OH, WELL, IT WAS A GOOD JOB WHILE IT LASTED!

LOVE, I WAS IN CONFERENCE WITH DR. HAPPERSEN. COULDN'T THIS WAIT?
WAIT ?! LEX, HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THE NEWS ?!
UH-OH.
OF COURSE, I HAVE. AS A MATTER OF FACT--
--I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SEND FOR YOU. YOU MEN RESUME YOUR POSTS! WE'LL FORGET ABOUT THIS... LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING...
SORRY, GUYS. I KNOW YOU WERE JUST DOING YOUR JOBS. NO HARD FEELINGS?
...THIS TIME.
NO, MISS...
...NOT ON OUR PART ANYWAY.
I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO THE TOMB AND EXAMINED IT. THERE'RE NO SIGNS OF A BREAK-IN THIS TIME! SUPERMAN MUST REALLY BE ALIVE!
LEX, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? WHEN I SAW THIS--!
DAILY PLA
BACK FROM THE DEA
PERMAN'S BODY MISS
I DIDN'T WANT TO UPSET YOU, LOVE. REPORTS HAVE VARIED WILDLY...
...IF ALL ACCOUNTS WERE TRUE, THERE'D HAVE TO BE AT LEAST FOUR SUPERMEN!
YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT COULD ALL BE SOME SICK HOAX?
PERHAPS.
WELL, I'M GOING TO FIND OUT...
"...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
LORD, SHE'S HEADSTRONG!
HAPPERSEN, PUT EVERYONE WE CAN SPARE ON THIS. I WANT TO KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHETHER SUPERMAN IS DEAD OR ALIVE. AND I WANT TO SEE PROOF--

"--OR HEADS WILL ROLL!"
ERRR-ERRT-ERRT-ERRRR
RUSH LIMBURGER
OH, MY GOSH.
RUN! TAKE COVER!
HOLY--! WHO'S FLYIN' THAT THING?
HELP! HELP!! TOWER? CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?
I NEED HELP--
--MY BROTHER COLLAPSED AGAINST THE CONTROLS-- I THINK IT MAY BE HIS HEART-- AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FLY!!
OH, GOD, WE'RE SO LOW! WHAT DID JOHNNY DO? PULL UP...
... STUPID WHEEL. . WHY WON'T YOU PULL UP?!
KRUNK!
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!!
WE'RE GOING TO CRASH! WE'RE GOING TO DIE!!
;?!?;
WHAT--? WE. WE'VE LEVELED OFF..
...SLOWING DOWN! HOW 'S THAT POSSIBLE?
THE CONTROLS DON'T EVEN RESPOND! WHO'S FLYING THIS PLANE?

OFFICER! PLEASE RADIO FOR ASSIST-ANCE!
I... I ALREADY HAVE .. SIR.
SOON...
THE CAPTAIN'S NEVER GONNA BELIEVE THIS! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
;SNIF; ONE MOMENT JOHNNY WAS LAUGHING AND SMILING, A-AND THE NEXT--!
YES. HIS HEART FAILED. TOO MUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED... HE CANNOT BE REVIVED
HE... HE'S DEAD... ISN'T HE?
JEEZ, BUDDY, DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO BLUNT?
SIMON KIRBY RIVERSIDE PARK
SEE? IT'S HIM... IT'S REALLY HIM!
HE'S BACK! OH, THANK THE LORD, HE'S COME BACK!
I CAN'T GET ANY CLOSER, LADY. I'M BREAKIN' THE LAW, JUST PULLIN' IN HERE!
IT'S OKAY...
...THIS IS CLOSE ENOUGH!
HEY! YOU WITH THE CAPE!!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BUSTER!!!
SUPERMAN!
LET ME TOUCH YOU!
PLEASE... HEAL MY CHILD!
WE NEED TO TALK. GET US OUT OF HERE!
HEY!
SUPERMAN! COME BACK!!
WHO THE *$#%!! IS THAT?!
YEAH, HOWCUM SHE RATES--?

ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO CAN'T PLAY THE ROCKSTER INSTANTLY.



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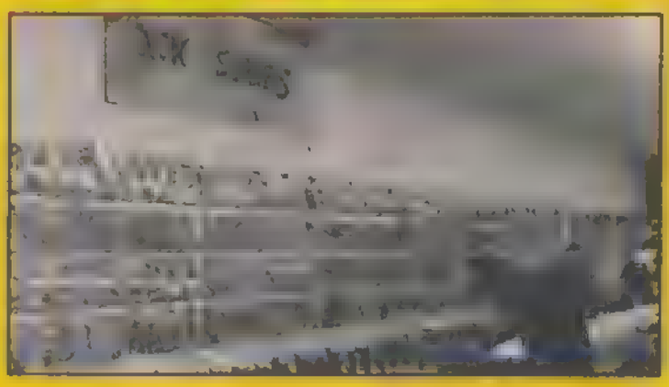

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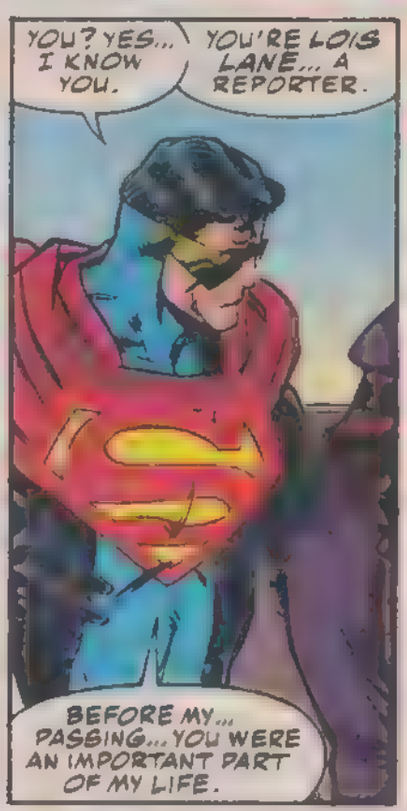
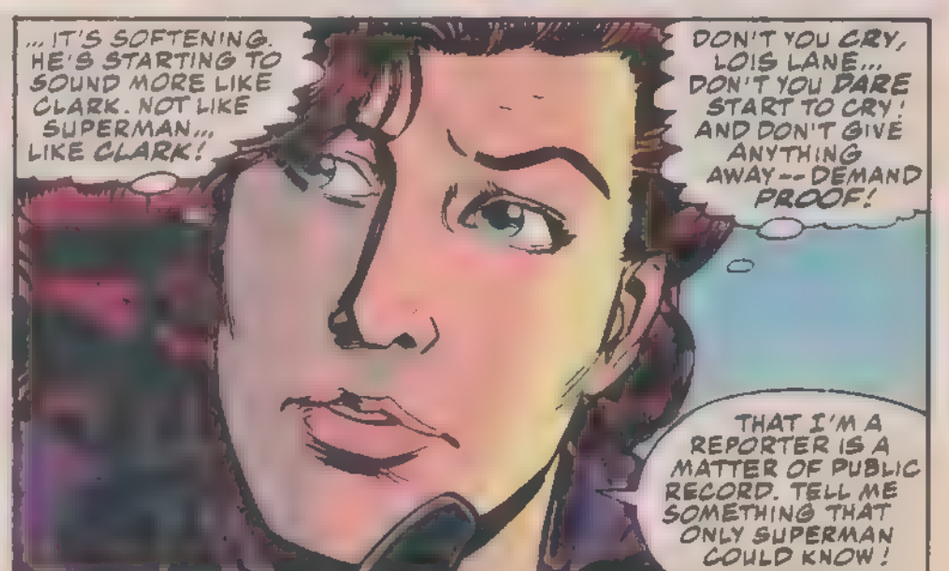
I THINK THIS IS FAR ENOUGH
AS YOU WISH.
"AS YOU WISH"?!
HE LOOKS LIKE CLARK, BUT HE SOUNDS SO COLD, SO... HOLLOW.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND YOU SINCE I HEARD ABOUT YOU. WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT'S YOUR GAME?!

I AM SUPERMAN. I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR SECOND QUESTION... I AM NOT PLAYING ANY GAME.
SUPERMAN NEVER HID HIS FACE! AND HE DIDN'T WEAR BLACK LIKE AN EXECUTIONER!
NO. NOT BEFORE. BUT I HAVE BEEN THROUGH MUCH... I HAVE CHANGED.

IF YOU RE REALLY SUPERMAN, TELL ME WHO I AM.
OR DON'T YOU KNOW ME?


YOU? YES... I KNOW YOU.
YOU'RE LOIS LANE... A REPORTER.
BEFORE MY... PASSING... YOU WERE AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY LIFE.

YOU WERE THE FIRST TO WRITE ABOUT ME.
HIS VOICE...


... IT'S SOFTENING. HE'S STARTING TO SOUND MORE LIKE CLARK. NOT LIKE SUPERMAN... LIKE CLARK!
DON'T YOU CRY, LOIS LANE... DON'T YOU DARE START TO CRY! AND DON'T GIVE ANYTHING AWAY -- DEMAND PROOF!
THAT I'M A REPORTER IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. TELL ME SOMETHING THAT ONLY SUPERMAN COULD KNOW!

I KNOW... THAT WE WERE MORE THAN FRIENDS. YOU WERE ENGAGED TO MARRY CLARK KENT.
KENT... LOVED YOU VERY MUCH. HE TRUSTED YOU COMPLETELY... EVEN WITH THE SECRET OF HIS DOUBLE LIFE
THEN.. YOU ARE--!
I AM...
...I AM SORRY.
I GRIEVE FOR YOUR LOSS, MS. LANE.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? IF IT'S REALLY YOU--!
CLARK...?
NO! WE MUST NOT SPEAK OF THIS AGAIN!
AS I TOLD YOU, THINGS HAVE CHANGED. I HAVE CHANGED.
KENT IS GONE
THERE IS ONLY SUPERMAN NOW.
WAIT--! DON'T GO!
DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN
...IF HE'S LYING, SOMEONE'S LEARNED THAT CLARK WAS SUPERMAN.
AND IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH...
...I'VE LOST CLARK... ALL OVER AGAIN.
END ?

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Dear Mike:

Hello from Japan! (Yes, it's true, your SUPER machinations are being enjoyed even in this part of the world.)

I just wanted to write you and let you know how much I'm enjoying all the SUPERMAN titles. The consistency and cohesiveness you maintain is unmatched by other multiple-titled characters. As others have pointed out, this attention to continuity really makes the SUPERMAN titles like a weekly comic, an aspect I greatly enjoy.

You've managed to assemble quite an impressive array of talent for these titles, and I enjoy each of the SUPER creative personnel. There's one individual I enjoy more than the others, however, one who seems more unsung, and less deservedly so, than the rest. His name is Roger Stern. Roger is one of my all-time favorite comics writers. It's easy to see why, isn't it? He writes a great Superman story every single month in ACTION COMICS. Oh sure, I enjoy some issues more than others, but Roger can always be counted on to write stories that are character driven, where characters' actions serve the plot, not the other way around (this is generally true of all the SUPERMAN titles). Every month, Roger Stern quietly maintains a level of writing professionalism that, sadly, seems to go unappreciated by the comics world at large. I read the letter pages of the SUPERMAN titles regularly and never see Roger being singled out for a kind word of praise. I just thought I'd let him (and you) know someone out there is enjoying his work.

One recent example of Roger's exceptional story bits (recent for me, but probably not for you) had Superman in the Metropolis police station talking to Captain Sawyer, and a policeman, noticing Superman, thinks to himself "Wow! Superman drinks coffee just like the rest of us!" Although this event was just a very brief aside to the main story, I thought it gave the reader a neat perspective on the character of Superman and on people's perception of him.

One other word of praise I can send your way is that of the multitude of comics bought for me each month by a friend back in Hawaii, the SUPERMAN titles are the only ones my wife is interested in reading. In fact, at this point, due to Superman's positive image as a role model, they're about the only comic produced today I'll let my 9-month-old son read once he's able. So please keep up the excellent work because, rest assured, I'm gonna keep reading.

Until Superman turns green and angry, make mine, well, DC of course!

Steve Klein
Hamamatsu, Japan

P.S. By the way, does the fact that I live in Japan exclude me from being eligible for a Baldy? I hope not.

Hey, Steve, our Baldies go everywhere, as you're about to discover. Not only that, but along with the always-special Baldy itself you will be receiving our Super-special platinum edition of SUPERMAN #75!

*****

Dear Super-type Folks:

You're really serving up a message here in ACTION COMICS #683, and I like it. A good, solid story with no breaks in it from start to finish. It's good to see Superman willing to ask for help, whether it is from Lois or Batman or Robin. I feel great every time I see Clark and Lois together. I have been reading SUPERMAN titles since the very, very early sixties and this is something I have wanted to see for a long time. Thank you so much.

I seem to remember Darwin Jones from somewhere in DC comics of the past, but I cannot seem to remember where. Can you refresh my memory? A great story but that last page says it all. Here we go on a storyline that scares the heck out of me. Whatever you guys do, don't screw it up! Until next time...

Carl Pietrantonio
Laredo, TX

Darwin Jones first appeared in STRANGE ADVENTURES #1 in the early fifties. Since then Roger Stern has trotted him out every now and again. You might have seen him in POWER OF THE ATOM in the 1987-1988 year.

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Dear Jennifer:

And so Jackal will go down as the last villain Superman faced before dying at the hands of Doomsday. Aside from the standard "Superman stands for truth and justice" bit, this was a nice, low-key issue before the real fight begins. It wouldn't have worked too well if you had given us a major fight or some other action-filled issue, because it would have paled before what is to come.

The excellent part of this issue was the message, which was mentioned before. Superman certainly isn't Lobo, or some other "hero" who doesn't know right from wrong. Instead of just enforcing his own brand of justice, which could become too intoxicating and lead to a Superman hungry for power, Supes knows where the line is, and rightly chooses not to cross it.

Plus, it's nice to see Supes suffer and learn from his past decisions. Although the SUPERMAN SPECIAL explored this in greater detail, I'm glad you occasionally mention the murderers Supes had to deal with a while back, and show that the effects of that decision still linger. I'm sure his pledge not to kill again will be sorely tested against Doomsday before his own death, and it will be interesting to see Superman's struggle.

James Evans
Madison, WI

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Dear ACTION Team:

Well, the time has come: we've seen Doomsday busting his way through the last page of every SUPERMAN title this month and he has finally gotten his fist through that wall. It couldn't have come at a worse time. I'll let all the others speak out about what a travesty this is for comics in general and what a tragedy for the American public as well. I just look at this issue and I wonder how many more "Jackals" there are out there. Without Superman to serve as a role model for super-heroes we will find a Metropolis full of bloodthirsty vigilantes and more anarchy in the streets. Without Superman around to straighten these punks out, Metropolis will start to resemble Gotham City in its lawlessness.

I mean, whatever happened to "Truth and Justice"? I tire of seeing these so-called "good guys" killing or maiming their victims. The SUPERMAN comics were a safe place from that kind of needless violence and mayhem you find in so many other popular titles these days. I will truly miss the wholesomeness and respectability of his character. I just hope that there will be other characters who will try to live up to his standards. But there will never be another hero in comics to take his place.

I wish you guys the best of luck in your future endeavors and hope you continue to create comics with the type of quality you have achieved in these pages.

Brad Parnell
Louisville, KY

Dear Jennifer:

ACTION COMICS #683 was one of the most offbeat SUPERMAN tales I've ever encountered. The artwork of Guice and Rodier was beautiful and, while I like the fact that the story was told by the creature when the creature was involved, I'm still curious as to an explanation of the identity of the hairy killer. I think Roger should have set things up and fleshed them out a bit more over the course of "The Trail of the Jackal."

Uncle Elvis
Westport, CT

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Mike and Jennifer:

This Jackal loser is lucky he went to Central Ohio instead of Northeast Ohio 'cause we don't like people who blow up planes, even if they are full of drug dealers. And if he *did* come to Cleveland I would have booted his hairy [expletive deleted] across Lake Erie to Canada—<**CRASH**> Oh, hi, Mr. Jackal! I see you escaped from the police. You know I was only kidding about kicking your [expletive deleted] across Lake Erie, sir, please put away those claws—AHHH!

Dead Don Cromie
Cleveland, OH

Get well soon, Don.

*****

Dear Jennifer and Mike:

One of the themes that I've been teaching one of my senior English Literature classes this week is within T.S. Eliot's poetry: the idea of the masquerade, the enforced hiding of one's real personality behind a mask, of the hiding of one's true, inner self behind a false and shallow surface.

That theme is intrinsic in the portrayal of characters in "The Trail of the Jackal." We see his mask once: an eerie, handsome, structurally perfect, but emotionally immobile thinness, held on by cheap elastic, ripped off almost immediately to reveal the true ferocity underneath. That was, presumably, all that held the animal within: the last, desperate attempt to recreate whatever humanity he once retained. It gone, he became perfectly integrated: the ugly bestiality without and within.

Could this explain, in reverse, why most super-heroes—certainly the hugely trustworthy ones—are always so excessively handsome? That their inner morals are as beautifully formed as their exteriors? Could this explain why the moral centerpiece of the DC Universe, Superman, has never needed to go masked, or that his Clark persona is so thinly disguised, especially as his traditional "meekness" has more or less vanished now? (The same could be said of his female equivalent, Wonder Woman. I also had an argument that included an interpretation of Guy Gardner's character and his looks, but it might be too dangerous to get into that here!)

And I've always been convinced that the lightness in the character of each incarnation of Robin has been due to the bareness of the disguise he wears to mark the difference between his real self and his hero-self, but it's marked even more in the case of Tim Drake. Maybe that's why Superman finds it much easier to work with the youngster, because the mask ideology jumps somersaults in Batman's case: the mask *is* the man, as he readily admits to Green Arrow in the excellent POISON TOMORROW graphic novel, and I think that is the chief reason Superman finds him not precisely comfortable to work with.

The mystery behind the Jackal's origins—made all the more intense by the familiarity with which we were introduced to him with his personal narration—was intriguing enough to wish for a return appearance or several, for his role on the edge of the superheroic ethic is one not often dealt with. But, if Slade Wilson can occasionally be accepted within Superman's and Wonder Woman's ethics, why not the Jackal? Hopefully not because he's a lot uglier than Wilson!

Jim Jackson
Kent, England

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Dear ACTION-eers:

As a pre-Doomsday and equally non-related issue, I expected ACTION #683 to be the usual "Superman-fights-and-defeats-the-new-villain" issue. And you would think that after all these years of collecting, my mind would finally comprehend the fact that this is the *new* DC and that even "ordinary" stories are refreshingly better than average. So, in times of such doubt, a face-slapping reminder belts my way in the form of a beautiful read by Stern, Guice and Rodier.

ACTION #683 has so much going for it, in fact, that it's going to be hard to maintain a decent letter size. So in little bits and from the top, here are some points of pleasure and reactionary responses:

1. The Jackal creation itself. He comes across as the "new" Timber Wolf (plug) with a Punisher mind-set, *but it works*. Like the Man of Steel and Robin pointed out, the Jackal has crossed that thin line of vigilantism, but *believes* what he's doing is right.

2. The plastic mask. Often both plastic masks and mannequins come across too "lifelike" in comics. Here, however, Jackson and Denis put a plastic mask on a flesh face.

3. Lois's foreboding foreshadowing on page nine: "Take care, Clark...take good care."

4. The team-up of Superman and Robin. Again, it is proven that Tim is the perfect partner for *both* of DC's biggest legends. You truly created a winner here, O'Neil!

5. The disillusionment that the Jackal had concerning Blue Beetle. Here he finds the legend is just a man, and it ticks him off. Needless to say, bring this character back!

6. The old man obeying Superman. Even though the Jackal's ideas about Superman have shattered, the common criminal still respects him. And again, ominous foreshadowing: "No matter how tough ya are, there's always someone out there bigger and stronger..."

7. KRAANG! KROOM!...Doomsday is here!

Joe Kucharski, III
Haddon Heights, NJ

* * * * *

—Jennifer Frank
Masking My Own Reactions

THIS WEEK (TAKE ONE): Move over, Luthor, there's a new game in town. Will this new crimelord prove that the female *is* the deadlier of the species? The Man of Steel is about to find out as he fights to rid Suicide Slum of her malevolent influence. SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #22 is written by Louise Simonson, pencilled by Jon Bogdanove and inked by Dennis Janke; it's on sale NOW!

THIS WEEK (TAKE TWO): Rebuilt and returned to Earth, Superman's first plan is to rid the world of Doomsday once and for all. So far, so good, but can Lois cope with the awful cybernetic changes wrought in her once-human fiancé? SUPERMAN #78 is written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens, with finishes by Brett Breeding. Also on sale NOW!

THIS WEEK (TAKE—NO, *BUY*—ALL THREE): Superman's been rejuvenated, but his first day back in the skies may be his last! Meanwhile, ambitious young reporter Tana Moon cuts Lois out of the running—in more ways than one! ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #501 debuts the writing talents of Karl Kesel, coupled with the pencils of Tom Grummett and the inks of Doug Hazlewood. Oddly enough, on sale NOW, as well!

IN TWO WEEKS: Superman gains the respect of...*Guy Gardner*?! The SCU is out in force...against Superman?! What in the world is going on? All mysteries are revealed in ACTION COMICS #688, written by Roger Stern, with art by Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier.

Superman is reborn on the cover of ACTION #687's newsstand edition, pencilled by Kerry Gammill, inked by Jackson Guice and colored by Glenn Whitmore...

...while the direct-market deluxe edition cover for ACTION #687 unveils the coldest Superman alive, and it was drawn by Jackson Guice and colored by Glenn Whitmore.

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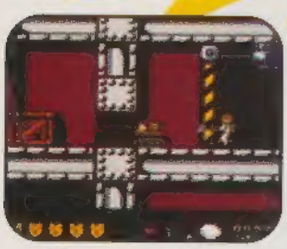

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